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New Direction

THE NEW direction which Admiral Stansfield Turner is charting for the Central Intelligence Agency is fascinating—as long as it is kept within proper bounds.

As director of the CIA Turner is taking the position that the intelligence which is generated should not necessarily be kept secret. Rather, it should be shared with the public. And he cited as an example that economic and political information gathered by the CIA could be useful to American businessmen.

That approach has a good ring to it. There's no question that a great deal of information which flows into the CIA would be beneficial to more than the military and diplomatic community. And it is logical that not all information should be kept in a highly classified state.

But the sticky part is delineating between what should be kept classified and what should be made public. The past CIA policy of keeping everything secret made it relatively easy to handle. There was no danger of the wrong information being passed around.

And it is elementary that any infor-

mation which is made public will be public in a global sense rather than kept within the boundaries of the United States.

Thus those entrusted with deciding what should be public and what should remain secret must be carefully selected and their work carefully monitored. If that is done with the best interests of national security in mind, the Turner approach shows promise.

But as a postscript we do wish to correct one statement the CIA director is quoted as having made. He said that the traditional human CIA agent is needed "to know what someone's plans and intentions are."

It is basic in military intelligence that there is no way of knowing—with any certainty—what someone's intentions are. You can learn his plans. You can determine his capabilities. And from those capabilities you can project what courses of action he is likely to attempt.

But unless you can delve into the human brain you have no way of ascertaining someone's intentions.

We just thought we'd correct the director of the CIA—if he really said that.